

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2008 FEDEX ORANGE BOWL

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY E. BOYDA**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2008*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce House Resolution 948, which honors the University of Kansas football program on their recent victory at the Orange Bowl and their most successful year in program history.

On January 3, the KU football team won the 2008 FedEx Orange Bowl, marking their first major bowl victory in university history. Leading up to the bowl game, the team placed 12 wins on their roster, setting a new school record for wins in a season. KU also reached the number two spot of the AP national poll, which marked the highest national ranking that the program has ever received.

Among their athletic accomplishments this season, the team also produced three students who received All-American titles for their performances on the field and two other students who were Academic All-American recipients. Head Coach Mark Mangino also received multiple national Coach of the Year honors.

Please join me in recognizing these accomplishments and congratulating KU on their amazing victories this season.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND VENSESLAV DIMITROFF

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff of Toledo, Ohio.

The Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff, a wise and faithful servant who shepherded his family and his community around the world, departed this life on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. A beacon of hope and service to his Toledo community, he will be sincerely missed by all. He was born on July 12, 1923, in Bourgas, Bulgaria. He spent his early childhood in Edirne, Turkey where his late father, the Very Reverend Mihail Dimitroff was the principal of the former "Peter Beron" Bulgarian high school and his mother, the late Ekaterina, a teacher. His family moved to Plovdiv, Bulgaria, when he was 7 years old and he stayed there until 1944, few days before the Communist takeover of the country. He had to leave his homeland again and move to Istanbul, Turkey. He served in the Turkish Military for 4 years. He married Marina Veneziani on November 7, 1955, at Sveti Stefan Bulgarian Church where his father had become an Orthodox priest. He was ordained to the priesthood himself in March of 1961 by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople. He was elevated to Cross-bearing Archpriest in May of 1973 by the Patriarch Maxim of Bulgaria. He served at St. John of Rila Church in the Bulgarian Exarchate in Istanbul until July of 1975.

At the invitation of the late Archbishop Kyrill Yonchev and the late Mrs. Pena Evanoff, one of the founders of the St. George Bulgarian Church in Toledo, Ohio, he immigrated to the United States in August of 1975. He served the small immigrant church community until his retirement in August of 1995. Father Dimitroff was a very friendly person who enjoyed talking to people from all walks of life. He loved reading, especially Balkan history and politics, and was an avid soccer fan who loved watching all kinds of sports on television. He beautified his home and community by being a masterful gardener. His church housed a lush gorgeous garden full of flowers, especially tulips and roses.

In the summer of 1992 he fulfilled a dream to return to Bulgaria for a visit to his brother after a 48-year separation. Four years later, in 1996, through the generous hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. George Lutikoff, he was able to revisit his family in his beloved Istanbul to spend a wonderful vacation among the members of the Bulgarian community residing there.

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to the long life of a good, patient and kind man, the Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff. He lived his years in service to his family, friends, and our Toledo community. May God welcome "Ven" home; a good and faithful servant. May He shower him royally with blessings into eternity and bestow upon him a loving peace.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO "COOGAN'S ANNUAL SALSA, BLUES & SHAMROCKS 5K RUN" ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Coogan's Restaurant's 10th Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run, a local institution in my district that was founded on the premise that "kids who run, do better in school."

Coogan's Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run is a celebration of the strong community ties and rich cultural diversity of northern Manhattan. The scenic route circles the historic Cloisters and returns to 169th Street. The New York City Road Runners Organization, organizers of the New York City Marathon, calls this "the best road race outside of Central Park."

More than 2,500 runners of all ages including world class competitors along with local celebrities participate in the race. A collage of over 20 different musical groups including gospel, bagpipes, meringue, salsa, and brass bands will serenade the runners along the route. Hundreds of kids running their hearts out all receive their Olympic style medals awarded by local firefighters and policemen.

Races "within the race" include the Captain Frederick III, Jr. Uniform Services Race created in memory of a local firefighter who lost his life in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. Participants from the Fire Department, Police Department, and Uniformed Services will compete for the Captain Frederic III, Jr. FDNY Victory Cup.

Another race within the race is the Norbert Sander High School Open named after Dr.

Norbert Sanders, M.D., founder of the Armory Foundation. This race features teams of high school students competing for trophies and awards. Winners receive \$500, to be donated to their high school sports programs.

Coogan's Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run was founded in 1998 by the managing partners of Coogan's Restaurant: David Hunt, Peter Walsh, and Tess O'Connor McDade. This five kilometer running party has been an extraordinary event ever since, packed with the pulse and flavors of one of New York City's most diverse neighborhoods.

On the 10th anniversary of this momentous race, I congratulate and offer my best wishes for the continued success of the race and its organizers. What began as a run to help children do better in school has become a remarkable accomplishment that should inspire other communities across our great Nation to pursue similar goals with devoted persistence.

IN HONOR OF REGINA WERDER O'CONNOR

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Regina Werder O'Connor on her 90th birthday. It has been my pleasure to know and work with her granddaughter, Kathleen O'Connor, who has told me about her grandmother's wonderful 90 years.

It's important in this day and age for children to grow up in a strong family environment. Gina made sure that her four children grew up in a home that valued hard work, devotion to their Faith, and love for the Buffalo Bills. Her children have now passed these values on to her many grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren.

Gina has also been a blessing to her community. She sacrificed many hours in service to the high schools her children attended. She has been a devoted and faithful parishioner of her beloved St. Mark's Parish for which, over the past several decades, she has sent out weekly parish bulletins to shut-in parishioners. She has also been a long-time volunteer at Sister's Hospital where she finds time to not only help those at the "Welcome" desk but also to help "the old people" she sees there.

Gina is a true pillar in the community. Her devotion to her family and commitment to helping others are examples to us all.

I would like to ask this House to extend best wishes for her upcoming birthday on March 21st and for many, many more. May her coming year be filled with happiness and good health.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHN MCINTIRE LIBRARY CARNEGIE BUILDING

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the dedicated people of the John McIntire Library Carnegie Building celebrate the 100th anniversary with great joy; and